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Perry Meridian High School's robotics team was back at school this week after returning victorious from a national event in Washington, D.C., in which it won six matches in a row and brought home two awards, including the prestigious Chairman's Award.

"The team is very excited, and there's a lot of real positive excitement at the school," said Chris Fultz, an engineer who serves as a coach and team mentor.

Cyber Blue teamed with the Technocats from Kokomo and the Warbots from Virginia in the finals and went undefeated to win the regional competition.

"The three of us together won six matches in a row," Fultz said.

Additionally, Cyber Blue won the Innovation and Controls Award for technical expertise and the Regional Chairman's Award.

The Cyber Blue team, which is in its 11th year, participates in the annual For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition.

Forty students at the Far-Southside school worked feverishly for six weeks this year to devise, design and build the 120-pound robot that helped them win.

Last weekend's competition was the first regional in Washington, D.C., and featured 65 teams from throughout the country.

"It was a very big regional," Fultz said.

FIRST devises a different competition each year to challenge teams. The purpose is to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

This year's game, called Lunacy, is played on a 54-by-27-foot low-friction field that is designed to simulate gravity on the moon. Matches align teams in three-on-three bouts and the robots, which vary from team to team, haul a payload trailer and work to pick up balls and deposit them in their opponents' trailers.

Next, Cyber Blue will compete March 19-21 at Purdue and April 16-18 in Atlanta.

Indiana has about 30 robotics teams, including groups at Carmel, Center Grove, Pike and Southport high schools.

This year, 42,100 students on 1,684 teams from 48 states and 10 other countries will participate in FIRST robotics events, according to the organization's Web site.